

would have any objection if I continue on another matter, with the understanding that, of course, I will yield the floor when one of his speakers comes on the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY. No objection, assuming that if some of my cosponsors come to the floor, he will yield to me.

Mr. LEAHY. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there are few jobs on Earth more demanding, or where the stakes are greater, than the Secretary of State of the United States. The daily business of most heads of state around the world pales in comparison.

The President has made an outstanding nomination. Madeleine Albright brings to this job a lifetime of experience. She has proven her toughness and her fairness many times over. She has been an unwavering champion of the fundamental ideals our Nation stands for.

She has been a strong voice for international human rights and the dignity of all people. She is going to be looked at by millions of people all over the world—in democracies and countries that are not democratic—as our voice in foreign affairs.

My wife Marcelle and I have been privileged to know Madeleine Albright for over 20 years. We have traveled with her and we have worked with her. I also had the privilege to be appointed as a congressional delegate to the United Nations, when I joined with her in introducing resolutions on landmines. I have always found her to be a person of the highest integrity, the greatest ability, wide-ranging knowledge, and one real tough ambassador when she has to be, to protect the interests of the United States.

On an issue dear to my heart, the abolition of antipersonnel landmines, we could not ask for a more forceful or passionate advocate for an international ban. Her trip to Angola last year and her poignant descriptions of what she saw there gave a great boost to the effort to ban landmines not only in this country, but worldwide.

The recent United Nations vote, with 156 nations in favor and none opposed, for a U.S. resolution calling for urgent negotiations on a treaty to ban antipersonnel mines, was made possible in no small part because of Madeleine Albright's active role.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter she wrote to the editor of the Christian Science Monitor about her Angola trip.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 11, 1996]

ALBRIGHT VIEW OF LAND MINES

The author of "A Sower of Land Mines Pleads to End Them," Oct. 2, eloquently de-

scribes the horrific impact of land mines around the world. Ending the devastation of what I have called "weapons of mass destruction in slow motion" is a high priority. As President Clinton told the United Nations General Assembly just a few days ago, "our children deserve to walk this earth in safety."

This is why the United States is at the forefront of efforts to end the use of land mines and their stockpiling, production, and transfer. In the last few months, dozens of countries have joined a moratorium on these activities and in a few weeks, at the direction of President Clinton, I will introduce a resolution in the UN that will commit the world community to negotiating and concluding an international agreement designed to end the scourge of these dreadful weapons forever.

At the same time, as the author discusses, tens of millions of land mines are already in the ground and they go on killing and maiming long after the conflict has ended. Along with other countries, we have contributed more than \$90 million to demining efforts, and we are working hard to develop new technology to lower the costs of clearance and to reduce the danger to those heroes involved in this perilous work.

Finally, we are helping prevent greater suffering by alerting and educating on the hazards those millions of civilians, particularly children, whose lives are not only under threat everyday but whose ability to rebuild their communities is circumscribed by the hidden danger under roads, beneath playgrounds, or in unsown fields.

Whether in Cambodia, Angola, Bosnia, or in many other places, I have seen first hand the heartbreaking devastation of land mines and the continuing tragedy that they inflict. At the UN and around the world, as well as at the just-concluded Ottawa Conference, we will continue doing all we can to end this horror and make our earth safe once again.

Mr. LEAHY. As Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright and I will have many conversations on a wide range of foreign policy issues. I know Secretaries have traditionally steered clear of budgetary issues. As the budget for foreign assistance has fallen sharply in recent years, I hope she will become more directly involved in reversing this dangerous trend. Secretary Christopher called the decline in funding for foreign assistance "the biggest crisis we are facing in foreign policy today." Not Bosnia. Not the Middle East. Not the fate of democracy in Russia. Not North Korea. Not renewed violence in Northern Ireland. Not the simmering conflict between India and Pakistan—both nuclear powers. Not the danger of plutonium ending up in the hands of terrorists. Not war and hunger in Africa.

No, all of those things. Because we cannot deal with these problems unless we are willing to pay the price. Leadership costs money. Ambassador Albright knows that.

I believe she will make the foreign policy budget a high priority and keep it at the top of the agenda. There have already been a number of Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, who have said strongly and forcefully—respected voices in this Chamber—that they will work to ensure that the administration has the funding necessary to effectively carry out its foreign pol-

icy. We need her active and sustained support in this.

She is going to have her plate full. I urge her to give special attention to the needs of our own hemisphere, and I know that she will. We have seen real progress toward democracy and free markets in Latin America, but the future is far from certain.

We have a compelling interest in stopping the flow of drugs and refugees, in strengthening civilian governments and seeing human rights respected in places where they are not, and in broadening our trade relations. I know of nobody who would give a better voice to that.

So I think Madeleine Albright was a superb choice. She will make us all proud, as she already has as our representative to the United Nations. And I think the fact that we are hearing such strong voices on both sides of the aisle commending this choice bodes well for her as Secretary of State, and for all Americans. She will be confirmed overwhelmingly.

It truly is the American dream when the daughter of a Czechoslovakian escaping communism becomes America's Ambassador to the United Nations, and the Secretary of State of this great Nation.

Mr. President, again, I thank my dear friend from Iowa for his customary courtesy, and I yield the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask that I be recognized in morning business for approximately 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from California controls the time until 11:30.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

FEDERAL GANG VIOLENCE ACT OF 1997

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Federal Gang Violence Act of 1997 which was introduced yesterday by Senator HATCH on behalf of himself and this Senator from California. I also believe my sentiments and cosponsorship are joined by Senators HARKIN, REID, and D'AMATO.

Mr. President, this legislation makes the Federal Government a much more active partner in the war on criminal activity that, I am regretful to say, has become violent and deadly and is perpetrated by organized street gangs. This bill was introduced with some differences in the last Congress, but the need for the legislation has only increased, and today I hope to lay out the case for the need for the legislation.